

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-4 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 1 is independent, while claims 2-4 are dependent from claim 1. By way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended to more accurately claim the present invention. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Objections

The specification of the disclosure is objected to. Examiner states that reference character "202" disposed on Figs. 4 and 5 is not disclosed in the specification. On line 7 of paragraph [0040] of page 3 in the specification of the published application, reference character is disclosed as "surface." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 of the present application was rejected under U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,032,960 ("Kato"). In view of the amendments to claim 1, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 requires, in part, "a projector-type vehicular headlamp for emitting light via a lens toward a predetermined emitting direction, comprising:" "an optical component having a focus on said predetermined straight line." Projector type headlamps are designed to illuminate a certain width of area at a predetermined position away from a light source. Claim 1 requires additionally that the optical component have a focus on the predetermined straight line.

Kato discloses a light source device with a convergent rod lens provided parallel to an array of light emitting elements. Contrary to the claimed invention, the light source device disclosed in Kato cannot be used as a headlamp because the lens irradiates light such that the light

is converged to focus on a predetermined point. Such converging light would be useless in a headlamp. It is also not possible for converging light to have a focus on a predetermined straight line. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Katoh for at least the reasons stated above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2-4 of the present application was rejected under U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Katoh in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,170,220 ("Matsumoto"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that Katoh and Matsumoto are not properly combinable. The Examiner cannot combine prior art references to render a claimed invention obvious by merely showing that the limitations of the claimed invention can be found in the prior art references. There must be some teaching or suggestion within the references themselves to combine them. As stated above, the light source in Katoh cannot be used in a headlamp. Thus, Katoh and Matsumoto cannot be properly combined for 35 U.S.C. § 103 purposes.

Moreover, even if properly combinable, Katoh and Matsumoto fail to disclose all the limitations of claims 2-4. For the reasons stated previously, claim 1 is patentable over Katoh. Claims 2-4 are dependent from claim 1. Matsumoto fails to disclose all of the limitations of claim 1 or supply that which Katoh lacks with respect to claim 1.

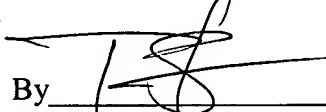
Thus, claim 1, and consequently dependent claims 2-4, are patentable over Katoh and Matsumoto, whether considered separately or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Applicant believes no fee is due with this request. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 02008/148001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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